

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held a work session on Thursday, August 20, 2015 in Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building, Dover, Delaware. The session began at 9:24 a.m.

Present were: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge Melendez, Vice President; Nina Lou Bunting, Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., Barbara B. Rutt and Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director.

Also in attendance were Michelle Wilson, Capital School District; Madeleine Bayard, Early Childhood Council and Susan Perry Manning, Office of Early Childhood.

Early Childhood Education Overview

Ms. Johnson provided an overview of the State Board's Literacy Campaign and the Birth to PreK Initiative as background information to the work session presentation. The presentation focused on achieving grade level reading success and it was noted that reading proficiency at the end of third grade is the most important predictor of high school graduation. Susan Perry Manning from the Office of Early Childhood showed the development process of young children and the role of brain development, vocabulary and good health. She also noted the impact of high quality early learning for children. Assisting with the presentation was Michelle Wilson, a kindergarten teacher in the Capital School District and Madeleine Bayard from the Rodel Early Childhood Council.

Preview of Upcoming Student Success 2025 Launch

The Board received an overview of the Student Success 2025 process and timeline to date with the release of the Vision Coalition's plan on September 16th. Recommended areas include early learning, personalized learning and postsecondary success.

The Board received a matrix that itemized the shared goals of the Early Childhood Council's Strategic Plan, the Vision Coalition's Vision for Education in Delaware 2025 and the State Board's Literacy Campaign.

The work session adjourned at 11:35 a.m.